4/7,K/14 (Item 6 from file: 73)
DIALOG(R)File 73:EMBASE

05942697 EMBASE No: 1994346987
Antibodies to high mobility group proteins in systemic sclerosis
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Journal of Rheumatology (J. RHEUMATOL.) (Canada) 1994, 21/11 (2071-2075)
CODEN: JRHUA ISSN: 0315-162X
DOCUMENT TYPE: Journal; Article
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH SUMMARY LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Objective. To determine the prevalence of autoantibodies to high mobility group (HMG) proteins in systemic sclerosis (SSc). Methods. One hundred ninety-seven unselected sera from patients diagnosed as SSc (n = 180) or Raynaud's phenomenon (RP) (n = 17) were tested for HMG autoantibodies by ELISA and immunoblotting. Results. Seventy-one of the 180 (39.0%) SSc sera bound to HMG proteins in an ELISA: 56 (31%) to **HMG-1** and/or **HMG-2**; 29 (16%) to HMG-14/17. In the same assay 7 of 17 RP sera (41%) bound to HMG proteins: 4 (23%) to **HMG-1** and/or **HMG-2**, and 5 (29%) to HMG-14/17. The specificity of HMG binding was confirmed by immunoblotting. Conclusion. Antibodies to HMG proteins, particularly to **HMG-1** and **HMG-2** are found in about 1/3 of SSc sera. Since **HMG-1** and **HMG-2** have a role in transcription, these observations further implicate transcriptional complexes as targets of autoantibodies in scleroderma. This is the first published report of HMG autoantibodies in scleroderma.

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S1        3268   HMG(W)(1 OR 2) OR HIGH(W)MOBILITY(W)GROUP(W)PROTEIN
S2      183669   AUTOIMMUNE OR AUTOIMMUNITY
S3          29   S1 AND S2
S4          20   RD (unique items)
S5           0   S1 AND KIT
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